Setting Up a Divisional Office at Salem

1800. SHRI V.P. DURAISAMY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been a longstanding demand for the last 30 years from the people of Salem, Tamil Nadu, to establish a divisional office' at Salem;

(b) whether it is a fact that the divisional office at Palghat is not serving immediate purpose of the people of Salem and other regions; and

(c) what steps the Ministry would take to establish a divisional office at Salem for smooth functioning of railway administration in that region?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir. Representations have been received setting up a divisional office at Salem.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) New divisions are set up keeping in view the factors like size, workload, accessibility, traffic patterns and other operating/ administrative requirements etc. consistent with the needs of economy and efficiency. The proposal for creation of a new railway division at Salem, when seen in the light of these considerations, is not found operationally feasible.

Railway Network in Gujarat

1801. SHRI PRAFULL GORADIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to bring many backward areas in Gujarat on the rail network, especially in Kutch; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) Where a number of Railway Projects span across more than one State/Region, State/Regional boundaries per se are not a criterion for Railway plan